

Franklin County Commissioners' General Session Agenda for 10/23/12

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners holds its General Session meetings every Tuesday at 9:00am in the Franklin County Government Tower at 373 South High Street, 26th Floor. Highlighted below are some of the resolutions/contracts scheduled for consideration at the upcoming meeting:

Housing Market Boost Enables Additional Investment in Affordable Housing

With improvements in the local housing market boosting collections on transfer fees, Franklin County Commissioners will consider half-a-million dollars in additional investments to create more affordable homeownership and rental housing within Columbus and Franklin County. Commissioners have had a long-standing partnership with the Affordable Housing Trust to share the County's collections from the permissive real property and manufactured homes transfer fee. Earlier this year, Commissioners appropriated \$1.4 million to the Housing Trust's residential development efforts in older, overlooked areas of Franklin County. On Tuesday, Commissioners will vote on appropriations of up to \$507,714 in added support, some of which will be used to stimulate the development of affordable apartments and homes near the county's employment centers. Last month, the Columbus Board of Realtors reported that home sales in Central Ohio were up 12 percent from the previous month.

Fees to File for Divorce Support Efforts to Prevent Domestic Violence

Part of another long-standing community partnership, County Commissioners will be asked to redirect the fees paid by couples filing for a divorce to support local efforts to prevent domestic violence. CHOICES, which operates one of the oldest and largest domestic violence shelters in Ohio, provides a 24-hour crisis, information, and referral hotline, shelter for women and children victims of family violence, consultation services, and transitional assistance. Through this ongoing partnership with Franklin County, CHOICES will receive the \$32 fee for each action or proceeding for annulment, divorce, or dissolution of marriage that is collected in 2013 - as well as the \$17 fee for each marriage license issued. This partnership is estimated to provide \$300,000 to CHOICES in 2013.

Thinking Green for Winter: Using Cornstalks to Prevent Drifting Snow on County Roads

Hoping to repeat a successful program for a thirteenth winter season, the Franklin County Engineer will ask Commissioners to approve funding for the "Cornstalks for Snow Fence" program - an innovative, environmentally-friendly plan that pays local farmers to leave cornstalks standing in fields that border designated County roadways to act as a natural snow fence. By significantly reducing blowing and drifting snow, the cornstalks improve roadway safety - at a cost that is significantly cheaper than installing traditional plastic snow fencing. Commissioners will be asked to approve \$30,000 for the program, reimbursing farmers at a rate of \$50 per acre and providing for about 16 miles of this eco-fencing at 60 different locations across Franklin County.

For the full General Session Agenda, visit:

<http://crms.franklincountyohio.gov/RMSWeb/pdfs/Agendas/CurrentAgenda.pdf>

Commissioners' Weekly Agenda 10/20/12 to 10/26/12

IMAGINE Young Artist Exhibition Opening (Wednesday - 4:00pm)

Imagine a school of three-inch great white sharks swimming through the main hall of the County Government Center - or flowers made from plastic bottles and discarded CDs growing out of the floors. On Wednesday, County Commissioners will dedicate the opening of a unique exhibition of three-dimensional and kinetic sculptures and art installations - all made by young artists between the ages of 5

to 21 years old. Coordinated by the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education with help from the Solid Waste Authority of Columbus Ohio (SWACO) and the TRANSIT ARTS program, the IMAGINE exhibition features impressive works made of recycled, up-cycled, or repurposed materials. The exhibition inside the Franklin County Government Complex pavilion (southwest corner of High Street and Mound Street) runs through mid-November. Many of the young artists will join the Commissioners at the opening ceremony on Wednesday from 4:00-6:30pm.

For the Weekly Agenda of Official Commissioner Events, visit:

<http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/commissioners/public-meetings/>